

**BREAKING MALE DOMINATION  
IN PHYLLIDA LLOYD'S IRON LADY MOVIE (2011) :  
A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE**



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A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE**

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**ABSTRACT**

*The study discusses about how breaking of male domination male domination in Phyllida Lloyd Iron Lady movie (2011). The objective of the study is to analyze the structural elements of Iron LadyMovie and analyze breaking male domination of this movie based on the feminist perspective.*

*On this research, the researcher applies qualitative research by usingfeminist approach. The object of the study is Iron Lady by PhyllidaLlyoid and was produced in 2011 by Weinstein Company. The data sources is separated of two parts, there are primary data sources and secondary data sources. The primary data sourcesisIron Lady Movie produced by Weinstein Company. The secondary data are manuscript and synopsis of Iron Lady Movie. The researcher also uses bibliography of the director of this movie as a secondary data sources. The method of collecting data usesdocumentation. In analyzing the data, the writer applies descriptive approach.*

*The results of this study consist of two parts. First, after analyzingIron LadyMovie, the researcher shows that Phyllida Lloyd can combine the structural analysis as a good unity. Second, based on the feminist analysis of Iron Lady movie, the researcher can elaborate that Phyllida Lloyd shows that Margaret can get the position, role, right on her live. She also can participate on social and politic sphere. Phyllida Lloyd also presents that women have the same opportunities with men to get and develop their carrier.*

**Key words:** Male domination, *Iron Lady*Movie, woman, gender equality and feminist perspective.

## **A. Introduction**

### **1. Background of the Study**

Everyone has same right but some people or communities are more dominant in society. People or communities that are dominant can bring social gaps in the society. The example of domination in society is male domination. According to Thompson (2003) “male domination is a social order structured around the principle that only men count as 'human’”. Male domination is caused by some several factors. Patriarchy is as a one of factors that is caused male domination on society. According to Mendel (1995:188) “Patriarchy has various connotation such us the power of the father over his household, of men over other men and the legitimating of authority in society, it is frequently difficult to define”. Because of it, in society, many women want to break the male domination and get gender equality.

Breaking male domination means as a struggle or movement of women to get gender equality on many aspects of social life. According to Knuttila (1996: 175) Gender means “being feminine” or “being masculine,” standards that look different in different societies.

*Iron Lady* is directed by Phyllida Lloyd. She was born on Bristol, England at 17 June 1957. *Iron Lady* is a movie that is inspired by Margaret Thatcher’s life, the longest serving Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of the 20th century. *Iron Lady* Movie is released at December,

2011 and this movie is released on USA at 13 Jan 2012. It tells the struggle of Margaret Thatcher to get her position becomes a Prime Minister on British.

Based on the explanation, the researcher will analyze *Iron Lady* by using Feminist Perspective. According to Charles (1996: 9) “feminist recognize that the meaning of the challenge and transform, yet political silencing can follow from rejecting these categories altogether”. Thus, the writer will observe *Iron Lady* by using a Feminist perspective. The writer constructs the research entitled “Breaking Male Domination in Phyllida Lloyd’s *Iron Lady* Movie (2011): a Feminist Perspective”.

## **2. Literature Reviews**

In this research, the researcher uses the literature reviews. It is used because it can help the researcher arrange the research. So, this is the preview study. First, the research was conducted by Utami (UMS, 2013). “*Female Leader as Sui Generis Reflected in Iron Lady Movie (2012) directed by Phyllida Lloyd: a Feminist Approach*”. The study is to reveal how female leaders as sui generis reflected in *Iron Lady* Movie in 2012.

Second, the research of Ummy Hanik (UMS, 2013) entitled “*Lost of Family Reflected in Phyllida Lloyd’s The Iron Lady Movie (2011): an Individual Psychological Approach*”. The problem study of this research

is how women manage the time for her career and her role as mother in *Iron Lady* Movie.

### **3. Problem Statement**

Based on the background of the study, the writers will concern to analyze the male domination on *Iron Lady* Movie and the structural elements of the movie. The researcher considers the problem statement as follows: “How is breaking male domination in Phyllida Lloyd’s *Iron Lady* Movie (2011) ?”.

### **4. Limitation of the Study**

In this research, the researcher will focus on analyzing of breaking male domination in Phyllida Lloyd’s *Iron Lady* Movie (2011) based on a feminist perspective.

### **5. Objective of the Study**

Based on the problem statements, the researcher formulates the following objectives of the study as follows are:

1. To analyze the structural elements of *Iron Lady* Movie (2011).
2. To analyze breaking male domination in Phyllida Lloyd’s *Iron Lady* Movie (2011) based on a feminist perspective.

### **6. Benefit of the Study**

Based on the problem statements above, the benefit hopefully gained are:

#### **a. Theoretical Benefit**

The researcher hopes the research can give information and contribution to add the knowledge to readers, particularly in literary study on *Iron Lady* Movie.

**b. Practical Benefit**

The research increases and enriches the knowledge of the writers and the other writers of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. The research can become a reference to the writers from other university that interest with the literary study of *Iron Lady* Movie based on the feminist perspectives.

**7. Underlying Theory**

**a. Notion of Socialist Feminist**

Feminist is the social movement of women to get equality of gender, so it can participate on society. According of Mendel (1995: 4) "Feminist has also broadened to include, political, cultural, economic, sexual, racial and ethical dimension". Feminist has many kinds of theories especially socialist feminist. According to Mendel (1995: 9) "Socialist feminists see woman's relationship to the economy as the origin of woman's oppression". It is caused by a women is dependent to a man in family life.

**b. Major Principle of Socialist Feminist**

**1) Women's Position**

On the social sphere, men and women have different position. According to Mandell (1995:188) "Feminists argue that men on

the basis of their gender have silenced woman throughout history, but men in domination position have done the same to less powerful men of differences races, ethnicity, or religion". Addressing to women's position based on the ideas of socialist feminist woman becomes oppressed. Women are usually measured lower than men and always in the second position. Women are considered as under the man authority.

## **2) Women's Role**

According to Mendel (1995:54) "Women traditionally are defined by their roles as daughter, wife, and mother". It is a basic role that is owned by human. Nevertheless, many people argue that men have a big role in the society. Women considered as a weak human and they have a little role in society. Women only have roles at home. It is caused by patriarchy system, the system limits the women's role in public sphere. Women are dominated by men. It can be seen in public sphere; men have more roles in society.

## **3) Women's Participation**

Man and women have gender equality to participate in many aspects, such as politic, economic, social, education etc. According to Mandell (1995:52) "Male and female with the same disabilities often receive different kinds of education. In higher education, females are channeled into traditionally female



dominated subject and carrier”. But many people say that men is most capable than women. Actually, the ability of human depends on their effort to participate in many aspects.

#### **4) Women’s Right**

Women's rights are entitlements and freedoms claimed for women and girls of all ages in society environment. Every human has rights on their life. The women have a freedom to develop herself on many aspects such as politic, economy, education and etc. According to Mendel (1995:8)

Woman’s right movements include extending the natural rights doctrine of the Enlightenment to woman, gaining the right to vote, changing married woman’s status by protecting married woman’s property, improving woman’s legal position in child custody cases, liberalizing divorce laws, providing married woman a with economic autonomy, and ensuring woman access to higher education, wage labor, and professions.

So, the women must develop herself to get gender equality.

Actually, men and women have rights to develop and increase their roles in society.

#### **c. Notion of Male Domination**

Male domination is a complex issue that is always found in the society. So, there are many definitions of male domination. According to Thompson (2003) he argues that “male domination is a social order structured around the principle that only men count as 'human’”. Male

domination has many influences for women because the domination makes the women get discriminations in society.

#### **d. Aspect of Male Domination**

##### **1) Male Domination on Social Sphere**

Male domination on social sphere is the condition which is the men have a more role on social aspect. So, the men are most active on the social activity. They also have a dominance status on society. According to (Robinson, Frost, Buccigrossi and Pfeffer, 2003: 16) “The major feature of the social status of men and women is the dominance of men in virtually every aspect of modern life”.

##### **2) Male Domination on Politic Sphere**

Politic is a tool for everyone to get position on government. But until now the women participation on politic is worse than a men. The domination of the male on politics makes the several women to participate the political activity. On the politic, the other factor makes women follow on politic activity. According to Bari (2005: 4) “Male domination of politics, political parties and culture of formal political structures is another factor that hinders women’s political participation”.

##### **3) Male Domination on Leadership**

Leader is the people that have responsibility to lead the organization or country. The several societies do not believe that women is capable to be a female leader. They think that men are capable to handle the matter on the country. Like on Moran (1992: 478) state that “Traditional stereotypes still exert a powerful influence and are at least partially to blame both for women’s difficulty in attaining leadership positions and for society’s struggle to accept them”.

## **B. Research Method**

### **1. Type of the Study**

On this research, the researcher applies qualitative research. The data sources are library and literary data. It purposes to analyze the movie by using feminist perspectives. The steps to conduct the research are as follows: (1) determining the type of the study, (2) determining the object of the study, (3) determining data and data sources, (4) determining technique of collecting data, and finally, (5) determining data analysis.

### **2. Objects of the Study**

The object of the study is *Iron Lady* by PhyllidaLloyd and was produced in 2011 by Weinstein Company.

### **3. Type of the Data and the Data Source**

There are two types of data in this study namely primary data and secondary data.

#### **a. Primary Data Sources.**

The primary data source is *Iron Lady* Movie produced by Weinstein Company.

#### **b. Secondary Data Sources**

The secondary data are manuscript and synopsis of *Iron Lady* Movie. The researcher also uses bibliography of the director of this movie as secondary data source.

#### **4. Technique of the Data Collection**

The technique of collecting data is as follows:

- a. Watching the movie repeatedly.
- b. Taking notes of important parts both primary and secondary data.
- c. Arranging the data into several groups based on its theoretical category.
- d. Selecting particular parts considered important and relevant for analysis.
- e. Drawing conclusion and formulate its pedagogical suggestion.

#### **5. Technique of the Data Analysis**

In analyzing the data, the researcher applies descriptive approach. The steps are taken by the writer in analyzing the data are as follows: the first is analyzing data based on its structural elements. Focus will be paid on the structural analysis of the movie. The second step is analyzing the data

based on the feminist perspective. Focus will be paid on the breaking male domination.

## **C. Research Finding and Discussion**

### **1. Feminist Analysis**

#### **a. Male Domination**

##### **1) Male Domination on Social Sphere**

In *Iron Lady* Movie, it can be seen the male domination on social sphere. The domination is experienced by Margaret when she was young.



In this picture, Margaret watches the speech on the public area. Margaret is the only woman that watches the speech. Margaret also stands around the man. This area is dominated by men.

##### **2) Male Domination on Politic Sphere**

In *Iron Lady*, it can be found the male domination on politics. The domination on politics is reflected on the election of the

Parliament Member. Most of candidate of each party is dominated by men.

Announcer : Mr. Eric Deakins. Labor 13.437. Mr. Iron Stance. Liberal 12.260. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher. Conservative 29.697. Now, I can announce announcement the new member of parliament provincially on 1959.  
(IL, 00:29:57,393 -->00:30:34,718)

From the dialog, it can be described that the candidate on election of Parliament Member is dominated by Men. Margaret is as a woman who participates on this election. In Parliament, the Member of Parliament is also dominated by men.

### 3) Male Domination on Leadership

*Iron Lady* Movie shows the male domination on leadership. This condition is also experienced by Margaret. When she participates on election to be a Leader of Party and a Prime Minister, she gets hesitant. She only wants to shake the election. Her thinking is caused by there is never a female leader.

Margaret : Prime Minister? Oh no. Oh no nono. In Britain? There will be no female Prime Minister here, not in my lifetime. No. And I told Airey, I don't expect to win the leadership, but I am going to run. Just to shake up the party.( IL, 00:42:57,093 --> 00:42:58,729).

## b. The Major Principle of Socialist Feminist

### 1) Women's Position

*Iron Lady* Movie shows the male domination in some aspect of politics. This movie illustrates that women only has the second positions in social life. So, this condition is also experienced by

the major character of this movie. One day, Margaret tries to be a Member of Parliament but she fails to get the position. She is very disappointed. It is caused by Margaret is grocer's daughter. She does not own an influence and authority to get the support from society.

Denis	: You shaved thousands off their majority. You did splendidly.
Margaret	: Not splendidly enough.
Denis	: Ah I see self pity. No one is saying you don't need a safe seat. You deserve a safe seat. But it does not come unless you learn to play the game a little.
Margaret	: What game?
Denis	: You are a grocer's daughter

## 2) Women's Role

On *Iron Lady* Movie, women can get a role and public. It can be seen on the major character of this movie. Margaret has the several roles as a daughter, wife, mother, and a Prime Minister.

Margaret has a role as a mother. She has twin children. They are Carol and Mark. She really loves them. Before she becomes a Member of Parliament, she is very close with her twin children. It can be seen on her family video. Margaret takes care her of children when Margaret, Denis and her children go vacation on the beach.



The next role, Margaret is as Prime Minister. This role has big responsibility for Margaret. In this position, she must make an exact policy. One of Margaret's policy is a war against Argentina. The policy is made to protect Falkland Island. Margaret is still sturdy with her decision while United State Secretary comes to prohibit her policy. He persuades Margaret to avoid the war.

U.S Secretary	: So you are proposing to go to war over these Islands. They're thousands of miles away, a handful of citizens, politically and economically insignificant, if you'll excuse me.
Margaret	: Just like Hawaii, I imagine.
U.S Secretary	: I'm sorry?
Margaret	: 1941, when Japan attacked Pearl Harbour. Did America go cap in hand and ask Tojo for a peaceful negotiation of terms? Did she turn her back on her own citizens there because the islands were thousands of miles from mainland United States? No, no, no! We will stand on principle or we will not stand at all.
U.S Secretary	: But Margaret with all due respect when one has been to war.
Margaret	: With all due respect, Sir. I have done battle every single day of my life and many men have underestimated me before. This lot seem bound to do the same but they will rue the day. Now, shall I be mother? Tea, Al, how do you take your tea? Black or white? (IL, 01:11:03,144--> 01:12:19,607).

### **3) Women's Participation**

Most of women have limited participation on society and career. Generally, women have participation to manage the house. *Iron Lady* Movie illustrates the participation of women on their career. Margaret can give participate on her career and politics. The first participation is on election of Parliament



Member. Margaret follows this election. She becomes the candidate from Conservative Party.

Announcer : Twenty-four-year-old Miss Margaret Robertss lost her bid to win a seat in Parliament today, but she has put new life into the Dartford Conservative Association. Winning candidate MrDodds had better watch out, this bright young woman is on his tail.  
(IL, 00:24:17,280 -->00:24:30,581)

#### 4) Women's Right

Women's rights are freedoms for women in social sphere. Actually, Men and women must own a similar right on many aspects because it can create the equality of gender on society. Nonetheless, the equality of right is difficult to get by women.

The right to get education is also can be found on this movie. *Iron Lady* Movie tells about Margaret's life. Margaret is Mr. Robert's daughter. She is different with other women that like party and takea picture. Margaret likes to hear a speech and study. One day Margaret ever gets satire from several women. The several women said that Margaret should study. It doesn't make Margaret giveup; she still follows the advice from her father to go her own way. Finally, she gets a good announcement that she is acceptedin Oxford University.



Picture 73.The latter from Oxford University.

Mr. Roberts : Never run with the crowd, Margaret.  
Go your own way. Open it then.  
Margaret : I've got a place at Oxford.  
Mr. Roberts : Don't let me down Margaret.  
(IL, 00:09:16,219 -->00:09:41,102)

## **2. Discussion**

After the analysis above, the researcher makes the discussion from two aspects. First, the analysis is about the major character conditions on the aspect of male domination. The major character of this movie is Margaret. Margaret experiences male domination on his life that consists of male domination on social sphere, male domination on politics sphere and last male domination on leadership.

The male domination on social is found when Margaret watch the speech in the public area. Next is Male domination on politic. The male domination is found on politic life on British. The male domination of politic appears when Margaret as a candidate of parliament member. The last aspect is Male domination on leadership. On this aspect the male domination is found on the Prime Minister of UK. Before Margaret becomes a Prime Minister, this position is got by a male.

Second, the analysis of the major character condition in position, role, right and participation show that each classification declares the major character that fight in the time of Margaret life. Margaret is the struggle woman. Margaret is the woman that doesn't want life only

take care home and children. She also wants to get a career. At this time, the interesting aspect of social life is dominated by male. Because of it, she wants to break it and makes the women have opportunity to develop her life on many aspects such as politic, career, economic and etc.

From the discussion above, it can be concluded that Margaret is a strong woman. She can get the equality of gender. She also can get her dream. Margaret can break the opinion that women are weaker than men. She also can get the position, role, right, and participation to fight her life to be better. From the struggle of Margaret, the viewer can get the value from this movie to fight her dream and bring a changing to be better.

#### **D. Conclusion and Suggestion**

##### **1. Conclusion**

Based on the previous analysis of *Iron Lady* Movie, the researcher makes the conclusion based on the feminist perspective of *Iron Lady* Movie. Based on the feminist perspective of *Iron Lady* Movie, Phyllida Lloyd elaborates the struggle of Margaret to get her career on politic. Margaret is success to get role, position, right and participation on the social life. She presents that woman has the same opportunity to get her career. Phyllida also describes that Margaret can stand on the male domination around her. She can break the domination of men on the social and politic aspect because on this era men are dominated on the aspect of life. In the other hand, Margaret still works hard to get the position as a Prime Minister on British. She

can change her life from an ordinary woman to be a leader of a Country.

## **2. Pedagogical Implication**

After, the researcher analyzed the *Iron Lady* Movie by using a feminist perspective. The researcher makes the pedagogical implication; there are some pedagogical implications of *Iron Lady* Movie:

- a. The researcher can give the contribution and information to the body knowledge about the literary study, especially the analysis by using the feminist perspective.
- b. This movie has a value about the struggle of women to get their carrier. The researcher can be an essential material to discuss in a class.
- c. *Iron Lady* Movie has moral value to work hard on life. It can inspire the learner to study hard to be a good learner. Especially every female student is able to compete with the boy students to get good grade.

## **3. Suggestion**

*Iron Lady* Movie tells about the struggle of Margaret to get success on her carrier while she must stand on the male domination. The researcher suggests researching this movie because this movie has a

good moral value. The other researcher can use several perspectives to analyze this movie; for instance the researcher uses feminist approach like this research. The feminist perspective is appropriate with the woman issue of the movie. The other perspective is suggested by the researcher is psychoanalitics and sociological approach. The researcher suggests the psychoanalitics approach because this movie contains the longing feeling of Margaret after Denis passed away. The researcher also suggests the sociological approach because this movie contains the social condition and social problems of UK.

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